bills received in Jhanghirpur Exchange is given below:—

1995-96	5
1996-97 upto date	3

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On complaint from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, technical check was carried out and no fault was found. There was threrefore no cause for excess billing.

(d) All five complaints of 1995-96 have been disposed off.

(e) Following measures are being taken to reduce the cases of excess billing.

1. Subscribers having STD/ISD facilities are brought on electronic exchanges to the extent possible, which provides dynamic STD/ISD locking facility.
2. Indoor equipment and outdoor plants are regularly checked to ensure that there is no technical fault.
3. All DPs Pillars are put under lock to prevent misuse. Entry to the exchanges has been restricted.
4. Vigilance unit also conducts surprise checks to detect possible misuse or diversion of line.

National Defence Policy Documents

1082. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Defence has recommended to examine the feasibility of preparing a National Defence Policy document; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, In its Sixth Report, the Standing Committee on Defence (1995-96) had expressed the desire that the Government examine the feasibility of preparing a formal National Defence Policy document for being placed before the Parliament.

India has a comprehensive strategic policy based *inter-alia* on our threat perceptions and the global and regional security environment. This policy is continuously under review in the light of developments which impact on our national security.

Decrease in Water Level

1083. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that water level has gone down below the normal limit in wells in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajashtan, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the respective Governments to store rain water and to make use of the same during the lean months?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the observations made on long term basis, decline of ground water level below the normal limit has been observed in certain parts of some districts of the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b) In order to overcome the problem of decline in the level of ground water, these States are having water shed development programme to store rain water by constructing check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds and through soil-water conservation.

ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेग्युलेशन अधिनियम (एस.आई.सी.) 1873

1084. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ईस्टर्न बंगाल फ्रंटियर रेगुलेशन अधिनियम, 1873 अभी भी कुछ पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में लागू है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त अधिनियम के स्थान पर लागू किए गए अधिनियम का ब्यौरा क्या है?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद मकबूल डार): (क) जी हां, श्रीमान्।